United Nations A/55/215

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 August 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Item 23 of the provisional agenda*

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community

Report of the Secretary-General**

Contents

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	Introduction	1	3
II.	Consultations and exchange of information	2–3	3
III.	Information received from the United Nations system	4–87	3
	A. United Nations Secretariat	5–16	3
	B. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	17–28	4
	C. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	29–32	6
	D. United Nations Development Programme	33–45	6
	E. United Nations Environment Programme	46–49	8
	F. United Nations Population Fund	50–52	8
	G. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	53	8
	H. United Nations International Drug Control Programme	54–55	9
	I. International Labour Organization	56–60	9
	J. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	61–69	9
	K. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	70–75	10
	L. International Civil Aviation Organization	76–78	11

* A/55/150 and Corr.1 and 2.

** The present report was delayed by late contributions from some agencies and the adaptation of lengthy submissions.

00-59003 (E) 240900

M. World Bank 79 11

N. Universal Postal Union 80 11

O. International Maritime Organization 81–85 11

P. United Nations Industrial Development Organization 86–87 12

Annex

Joint statement of the second general meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and the Caribbean Community and its associate institutions held in Nassau on 27 and 28 March 2000 13

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/17 of 16 November 1998, entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community", by which, inter alia, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution to it at its fifty-fifth session.

II. Consultations and exchange of information

2. The second general meeting between representatives of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and its associated institutions and of the United Nations system was held in Nassau on 27 and 28 March 2000. The meeting recognized existing collaboration between the United Nations and CARICOM and welcomed new areas of possible cooperation which, it was agreed, should be further explored and developed, subject to financial and human resources.

3. At the invitation of CARICOM, the United Nations was represented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative in Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados at the twentieth and twenty-first Conferences of Heads of State and Government of the Caribbean Community, held in Trinidad and Tobago in July 1999 and in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in July 2000.

III. Information received from the United Nations system

4. In response to a request by the Department of Political Affairs, heads of agencies, programmes, departments and offices of the United Nations system supplied the information summarized below.

A. United Nations Secretariat

Office of Internal Oversight Services

5. Since early 1998, the Office of Internal Oversight Services has been working directly with the CARICOM secretariat, at the latter's request, in maintaining efficient and effective internal oversight.

6. During a five-day period in March and April 1998, the Office of Internal Oversight Services provided the Chief of newly established Internal Oversight Unit of CARICOM with a detailed briefing on the United Nations oversight system, including activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services. Since then, the Office of Internal Oversight Services has been providing further management consulting services, aimed primarily at raising awareness among senior secretariat staff of the scope, role and functions of internal oversight, and assisting the CARICOM Internal Oversight Unit.

Department of Political Affairs

7. The Department of Political Affairs is the focal point for cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. In that capacity, the Department coordinated the implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/17, including the convening of the second general meeting between representatives of CARICOM and its associated institutions and of the United Nations system and the preparation of the report on the meeting (see annex).

8. Pursuant to resolution 49/141, the Department sent notes verbales and letters to the heads of all components of the United Nations system, requesting them to identify officers who would serve as focal points for CARICOM affairs. The Department established and maintains a list of those focal points, which was communicated to CARICOM, in order to facilitate a more pragmatic and cost-effective cooperation between the two systems.

9. In carrying out its mandate, the Department maintains close contact with the CARICOM secretariat, permanent representatives of States members of CARICOM and the permanent observer of CARICOM to the United Nations.

Department for Disarmament Affairs

10. Discussions between CARICOM and the Department for Disarmament Affairs have led to the identification of areas of cooperation in which the Regional Centre for Disarmament in Lima could play a role in sharing lessons learned from measures to curb the illicit flow of arms in the region. The Regional Centre can aid in this respect and, through cooperation

at the operational level, can also offer assistance in the areas of law enforcement and in combating illicit trafficking in small arms.

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

11. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has been increasingly engaged with CARICOM countries, in particular through the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA). As part of a working-level agreement, the Office and CDERA exchange information on early warning, especially during the hurricane season, and coordinate relief operations and the mobilization of international assistance. The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs will post a Disaster Response Adviser for the Caribbean and Central America in Costa Rica, and is organizing a United Nations disaster assessment and coordination training session in the Caribbean for early 2001.

Department of Public Information

12. The Department of Public Information continued to give extensive coverage to regional events and meetings. Through its 15-minute radio feature "UN Caribbean Magazine" (in English, adapted into Dutch and French/Creole) and segments of its weekly news programme, "Caribbean News Roundup". Events covered included the February 1999 Donor Conference, the second general meeting between the United Nations and CARICOM (Nassau, March 2000) and the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" (New York, June 2000).

13. The Department's NGO Section is working with the United Nations information centre in Port of Spain to launch a non-governmental organization umbrella entity, building on successful models in Grenada, Jamaica and Suriname. The United Nations information centre in Port of Spain coordinated the "Vital Voices of the Caribbean" conference in September 1999, which brought together 130 women leaders from the Caribbean to discuss implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

14. The Department ran a campaign to publicize the environmental and development problems of small developing States, including Caribbean countries, in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in September 1999. Outreach to media was undertaken in cooperation with SIDSNet/UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Alliance of Small Island States and resulted in major media coverage of the meeting.

15. In the area of library and publications services, the Department strengthened the network of partners with the Dag Hammarskjöld Library. A workshop for United Nations depository librarians on the use of United Nations documents was held in Trinidad and Tobago in January 1999.

16. The *Yearbook of the United Nations* continued to cover cooperation between the United Nations and CARICOM, inter alia, by publishing the full texts of relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the *UN Chronicle* reported on cooperation between the United Nations and CARICOM in the context of its coverage of the General Assembly and other legislative bodies.

B. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

17. One of the fundamental goals of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is lending assistance to the Caribbean integration process. Over the years ECLAC has worked to achieve this goal through the activities of its subregional headquarters, which serves as secretariat to the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee.

18. In addition to the traditional areas of cooperation between ECLAC and CARICOM, such as information and statistics, trade and economic analysis, new areas have been added. They include sustainable development, preparation and follow-up to United Nations global conferences and science and technology.

19. *Sustainable development.* At the request of the countries involved, ECLAC and CARICOM have been acting as interim secretariat for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. In June 1998, the Small Island Developing States Bureau formalized the division of labour between the two

organizations: CARICOM accepted responsibility for political outreach, while ECLAC functions as the operational, or technical, secretariat. Activities during 1999 focused on preparations for the special session of the General Assembly to review the implementation of the Programme of Action. The interim secretariat and the Inter-Agency Group have been instrumental in implementing a large number of projects related to the Programme of Action and, more generally, in keeping the spirit of the Programme of Action alive in the region.

20. ECLAC and CARICOM have collaborated in recent years in the process leading to the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 54/225, of 22 December 1999, entitled "Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development".

21. *Preparation and follow-up to global conferences.* ECLAC and CARICOM have collaborated during 1999 and 2000 in the provision of technical assistance to Caribbean delegations participating in the follow-up process of the Beijing Platform for Action. Both organizations facilitated working sessions of the Caribbean delegations in attendance at the eighth Regional Conference on Women (held in Peru in February 2000).

22. This collaboration continued at the meeting of the preparatory committee for the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", and at the special session itself. At those working sessions, ECLAC and CARICOM provided technical assistance to the delegations in building a Caribbean consensus for the adoption of the document on further initiatives to implement the Beijing Platform for Action. In addition, ECLAC acted as a resource to the April 1999 CARICOM meeting of the Technical Working Group on Gender Statistics and in the development of gender analysis tools.

23. There has also been collaboration in the area of population and development. The organizations worked closely in preparations for the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly, in July 1999, and ECLAC provided a briefing to the CARICOM designate for the negotiating process for the five-year review of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. In its review of the status of older persons in the Caribbean, ECLAC collaborated with CARICOM in supporting the Caribbean Charter on Health and Ageing, which had been formalized in the Bahamas in 1998. CARICOM was represented at the ECLAC meeting on the Status of the Older Persons (September 1999).

24. *Statistics and Census Preparation.* ECLAC and CARICOM have collaborated extensively in the area of statistics, pooling their resources in the interest of securing data from the respective countries. ECLAC organized in December 1998, with funding from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), a workshop in preparation for the year 2000 Round of Population and Housing Censuses. CARICOM, in charge of the Caribbean-wide coordination, participated in the planning of the workshop, which set the stage for member-country participation in the round of censuses. At the request of the Governments, ECLAC currently provides assistance in the census-planning exercise.

25. *Science and Technology.* ECLAC and CARICOM collaboration in the area of science and technology spans a number of fields, including competitiveness, marine affairs, agriculture and energy.

26. ECLAC is a member of the Working Group on the CARICOM Regional Competitiveness Programme 1998-2003. The programme specifically seeks to contribute to the development of a set of policies and measures which create a conducive business climate, increase access of companies owned by CARICOM nationals to the resources of the programme, increase the number of enterprises which participate in the programme and facilitate the active participation of small and microenterprises in export activity.

27. ECLAC is also an active member of the Caribbean Community Ocean Sciences Network (CCOSNET) Working Group established in 1990. The network consists of the major institutions in the region working in marine sciences and satellite remote sensing. A regional oceanographic database has been established to serve the needs of CCOSNET. A quarterly newsletter keeps scientists, technocrats and policy makers up-to-date on relevant activities and events of mutual interest. In 1998, the International Year of the Ocean, CCOSNET hosted the Caribbean Sea Forum. ECLAC was one of the agencies that provided technical assistance to the organizing committee.

28. ECLAC is a member of the CARICOM Pesticide Control Board, participating in the Coordinating Group responsible for establishing guidelines for the controlled use of inorganic pesticides and promoting biological pest control in the region; and of the Agri-Business Network, which disseminates information on food technology and biotechnology in the Caribbean via the SIMBIOSIS network.

C. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

29. Since 1988, UNCTAD and CARICOM have collaborated actively on the UNCTAD computerized customs management system (ASYCUDA), which is part of UNCTAD technical assistance activities in trade and transport efficiency, notably dealing with customs modernization and reform. The system, which handles manifests and customs declarations, accounting procedures, transit and suspense procedures, and generates timely and reliable trade data for analytical and statistical purposes, has now been installed in 12 CARICOM member States.

30. UNCTAD collaborates with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), an associate institution of CARICOM, on projects being carried out in a number of countries and subregions. Discussions are also being held with the Caribbean Export Development Agency (CEDB), also associated with CARICOM, concerning long-term sustainability of ASYCUDA by CARICOM member States. In 1999, UNCTAD worked closely with CEDB representatives to ensure ASYCUDA user countries were year 2000 compliant. Two countries have agreed to finance short-term feasibility studies as precursors for migration to the latest version of the system.

31. UNCTAD serves as the United Nations focal point for the least developed countries through monitoring the implementation of the Programme of Action for the least developed countries for the 1990s. The UNCTAD secretariat frequently consults and exchanges views with the CARICOM secretariat on issues regarding small island developing States and currently has technical assistance projects in Haiti and Saint Lucia.

32. A subregional workshop on competition law and policy for CARICOM and its member States was held on 12 and 13 October 1999 in Trinidad and Tobago. Organized jointly by UNCTAD and the CARICOM secretariat, the European Union, the University of the West Indies and the Institute of Social and Economic Research, the workshop aimed to strengthen Caribbean countries' knowledge of the main principles and application of competition law and policy.

D. United Nations Development Programme

33. UNDP has ongoing agreements with the CARICOM secretariat and with all member Governments of CARICOM. These development partnerships are carried out at various levels, one of which is the funding of activities and initiatives under the Regional Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean which, in turn, is governed by the Regional Cooperation Framework for Latin America and the Caribbean.

34. A separate cooperation agreement underpins the partnership at a subregional level, with the funding of programmes and projects channelled through OECS. The main beneficiaries of this subprogramme are the smaller OECS States.

35. *Partnership dialogue.* A series of programme review discussions took place with the CARICOM secretariat in 1997, 1998 and 1999, supported by meetings between the UNDP Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean and senior CARICOM officials. Despite declining resources, the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) project will remain the highest priority for UNDP in the region. A resource mobilization strategy for the region will be developed and implemented jointly.

36. Consultations took place between the UNDP Regional Bureau and CARICOM Permanent Representatives to the United Nations. During the period under review, UNDP has sought to enhance and rationalize its service to the Caribbean. New resident representatives took office in Barbados, Guyana and Jamaica in 1999 and the Caribbean Unit was re-established within the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean at UNDP headquarters.

37. The need for increased collaboration among country offices in CARICOM countries has led to a system of cluster meetings of resident representatives, four of which were held during 1999. As a result, a study of Caribbean country offices was conducted to

determine ways of rationalizing work among them and of increasing their efficiency and effectiveness.

38. With a view to improving the quality of service, the Subregional Resource Facility was established in the field office in Trinidad and Tobago in early 1999. A first in Latin America and the Caribbean, this service has been instrumental in providing technical backstopping, referral and networking services to country offices, and through them, to Governments and other stakeholders.

39. *Programme delivery.* UNDP continues to support a number of sectors critical to CARICOM development goals. The second phase of support for establishing the CSME began in July 1999. Approximately US$ 1.5 million will underwrite activities over a two-year period that will make CSME a reality. Upon completion, the project is expected to transform current arrangements into integration characterized by the free movement of goods, services, capital and skilled personnel across the region.

40. UNDP support to the Caribbean has continued in the area of disaster management and preparedness. This support began in 1992 and sought to build capacity in CDERA to monitor disaster preparedness efforts and respond to disaster relief needs of member countries. The project is expected to end in mid-2000, but with continued and enhanced support envisaged in the future, based on identification of the vulnerability challenges of Caribbean States.

41. From 1997 to 1999, UNDP supported the development of the maritime sector of Caribbean countries by enhancing the region's ability to effectively regulate maritime activities, conserve the marine environment and cooperate with other States to implement a system of port State control. UNDP is joining with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and CARICOM to continue support to this sector through the provision of further technical advice, training and capacity-building initiatives and the development of maritime training modules for use in regional institutions.

42. A similar collaboration has been the feature of support to the health sector, where the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization has provided considerable technical know-how for two projects funded by the CARICOM Regional Programme aimed at upgrading the skills of health practitioners as well as community workers, and developing practical policies for managing and financing health reforms to protect the poor. The second project examined the impact of structural reforms on the health-care system in Caribbean countries and made policy recommendations to reduce negative impacts and ensure enhanced access and care.

43. Assistance has been directed towards enhancing the capacity of Caribbean countries to participate more profitably in the global music industry, given the region's strong musical tradition and the fact that this is one of the fastest growing areas of economic activity globally. Regional copyright laws have been developed, national and regional associations of performers and managers have been established and training provided on the copyright, business management and international marketing aspects of the music industry.

44. A number of studies were commissioned and technical meetings and training workshops held aimed at identifying priorities for trade negotiations in the context of the World Trade Organization and Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). UNDP and CARICOM also responded to a request by Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Permanent Missions in New York of CARICOM countries to support the establishment of an electronic network linking all CARICOM missions, their respective ministries and the CARICOM secretariat. Upon completion, the network will facilitate access to and dissemination of information relevant to the conduct of foreign policy.

45. UNDP has supported the efforts of OECS to prepare a development charter for the Eastern Caribbean islands. A draft document has been prepared and is under consideration by Heads of Government. Furthermore, UNDP is supporting the preparation of a set of indicators of social development for the region to use in the preparation of the first human development report for OECS in late 2000. Poverty eradication has received considerable attention through a project aimed at informing the policy framework, updating and creating national poverty databases and providing targeted assistance to specific poor communities in a number of OECS countries.

E. United Nations Environment Programme

46. An assessment of the marine and coastal zones of the Caribbean was initiated under the regional UNEP Global Environmental Outlook activities. Work also continued on the Caribbean assessment network and the electronic discussion forum that was initiated in 1999. UNEP is also finalizing discussions with the United Nations information centre in Trinidad and Tobago on its participation in the "UN Works" public awareness and education campaign activities in CARICOM countries in 2001.

47. The Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities, adopted in Aruba in October 1999, highlights the region's commitment to combat threats to the marine and coastal environment of the Caribbean. The UNEP Regional Coordinating Unit, based in Kingston, also implemented projects on appropriate and environmentally sound technologies for sewage treatment and management.

48. During the September 1999 special session of the General Assembly on the five-year review of the programme of action for the sustainable development of small island developing States, UNEP issued the Caribbean Environment Outlook report, produced in close collaboration with the University of the West Indies Centre for Environment and Development, with funding from the European Commission.

49. The twelfth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Barbados from 2 to 7 March, reached a decision on promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean in the context of sustainable development. That decision reflects UNEP efforts to incorporate the priorities of the Caribbean into its mandates and subsequently its work programme. Other decisions reached with implications for UNEP activities in the Caribbean in 2000-2001 included themes such as natural disaster assessment, multilateral environmental agreements and education and the strengthening of the regional seas programme.

F. United Nations Population Fund

50. Through its programme of assistance to the Caribbean, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has addressed one of the priority issues of concern to all CARICOM countries, namely, health and well-being of adolescents and young adults. In 1999-2000, UNFPA has been at the forefront of promoting adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights. Pilot projects in Guyana, Jamaica and Suriname use an integrated reproductive health approach, joining the social and health sectors.

51. UNFPA has worked with the Mona Campus of the University of the West Indies to develop a multidisciplinary modular Diploma in Population and Development, which will foster institutional and technical capacity in the region at the executive and operational levels. In addition, the presentation of the UNFPA Caribbean Media Awards, aimed at encouraging excellence in reporting on population and development issues in the region, began in 1999.

52. UNFPA spearheaded efforts to initiate a Caribbean parliamentary movement on population and development, culminating in a first meeting held in Trinidad and Tobago in November 1999. UNFPA and the Bahamas will co-host the inaugural meeting of the Caribbean Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development in the Bahamas in November 2000. Several issues arising from the Plan of Action of the UNFPA-sponsored Caribbean Youth Summit, held in Barbados in 1998, should be on the agenda for discussion at this next parliamentary meeting.

G. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

53. The Regional Office of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Venezuela held discussions with the Government of Guyana on its accession to the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol, in order to enhance the protection of refugees at the regional level and set an example for other CARICOM countries. The UNHCR Regional Office for the United States of America and the Caribbean, based in Washington, D.C., has maintained close contact with the CARICOM secretariat with a view to obtaining support for the accession campaign. UNHCR presented a paper on the situation of refugees in CARICOM States, at the meeting held in the Bahamas between the United Nations and CARICOM in March 2000.

H. United Nations International Drug Control Programme

54. United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)/CARICOM cooperation has intensified during the last review period. In April 1999, a frank exchange took place between the Secretary-General of CARICOM and the UNDCP Regional Representative on how to reinvigorate the Barbados Plan of Action for Drug Control Coordination and Cooperation in the Caribbean. Subsequently, joint UNDCP/CARICOM missions to evaluate the drug control situation were undertaken to Saint Kitts and Nevis (June 1999), Grenada (October 1999), Trinidad and Tobago (November 1999), Jamaica (December 1999), Barbados (January 2000), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (February 2000), Dominica (March 2000) and Antigua (April 2000).

55. UNDCP attended the CARICOM Intergovernmental Task Force Meeting on Drugs held in Jamaica in April 1999 and in Dominica in May 2000. In turn, a CARICOM ministerial delegation participated in the UNDCP Caribbean Coordination Mechanism meeting held in Barbados in May 2000. The agendas of the task force meetings were prepared in close consultation with the CARICOM secretariat in order to identify the priorities and needs of the Caribbean. At the request of CARICOM, greater emphasis was placed on reducing the demand for drugs.

I. International Labour Organization

56. The International Labour Organization (ILO) and CARICOM revised their agreement in April 2000 in order to reflect the new forms of cooperation that have developed between the two organizations. The ILO Caribbean Office currently provides technical assistance to the CARICOM secretariat on the development of model legislation on contract labour, with particular emphasis on part-time work.

57. Following the recently concluded ILO-organized Meeting of Caribbean Labour Ministers held in Jamaica in April 2000, the CARICOM secretariat agreed to sit on a Ministerial Committee on the Modernization of Labour Ministries. The ILO Caribbean Office will provide technical advisory services to this committee, as requested.

58. The ILO Caribbean Office participated in the third meeting of the Council for Human and Social Development held in Guyana in January 2000. The agenda included CSME, free movement of skills and people, harmonization of labour standards and legislation, ratification of ILO conventions, ILO work programme and ILO Governing Body issues and Convention on the Rights of the Child.

59. ILO, through its social security department in Geneva, provided technical input to the Meeting of CARICOM heads of Social Security Organizations, held in the Bahamas in October 1999.

60. The CARICOM secretariat is invited to participate and to address the opening ceremony and to provide technical input at all the high-level meetings organized by the ILO Caribbean Office at the subregional level. Similarly, the ILO Caribbean Office is invited to participate in CARICOM-organized meetings on labour issues.

J. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

61. The programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in CARICOM countries during the 1999-2000 period was geared towards improving the level of food security, thereby reducing the incidence of malnutrition and hunger. Activities focused on increasing production and productivity within a programme of agricultural diversification and rehabilitation, and on preparing the sector to meet the challenges of trade liberalization and globalization. FAO continued to provide administrative, technical and training support related to natural disasters in agriculture and the persistence of pests and diseases.

62. The FAO Director-General visited the region and addressed the CARICOM Conference of Heads of Government in July 1999. On that occasion, a proposal for a Regional Food Security Project for member countries of the Caribbean Forum (CARIFORUM) was proposed and a project document is under preparation.

63. During the 1999-2000 period, there were 34 national projects under implementation in 14 CARICOM countries. The new projects covered the areas of policy assistance, capacity-building, agricultural information generation and planning, crop and livestock disease control, food production and

processing, agricultural inputs, and small farmer development.

64. There are 13 regional FAO projects under implementation, five of which involve the CARICOM secretariat. FAO approved two regional projects relevant to the countries of CARICOM during the review period. The two projects, with a total budget of US$ 273,000, relate to hurricane disaster preparedness and national agricultural development. Three regional projects are under consideration, two in fisheries and one in land-use planning.

65. The 1999 hurricane season was relatively active and impacted the agricultural, fisheries and forestry sectors of CARICOM countries. Hurricanes José, Floyd and Lenny severely affected economic activity in Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Dominica and Saint Kitts and Nevis, all of which have assistance.

66. In addition, FAO assisted CARICOM through the following activities: (a) follow-up to the World Food Summit; (b) training programme on the Uruguay Round and future negotiations in agriculture; (c) implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; (d) regional fisheries support; (e) regional plan protection activities; and (f) natural resources management.

67. The CARICOM Regional Transformation Programme, established in 1996, aims to improve agricultural productivity and develop sustainable and ecologically balanced production systems. National and regional (CARICOM) projects, especially in technology generation, validation and transfer (15), agricultural policy support (12); and agri-business development (5), all contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the regional programme.

68. During the 1999-2000 period, in the process of assistance in planning and implementing project activities, FAO provided a range of technical, financial and logistical support to CARICOM countries, thereby strengthening human resource capabilities. Support was provided in fisheries, forestry, resources management, plant protection, nutrition, agricultural education and extension, agricultural statistics, hurricane preparedness planning and meat inspection.

69. In collaboration with the Export Development and Agricultural Diversification Unit of OECS, financial and technical support was provided for a subregional study on improving access of farmers to export markets. Countries involved in the study included Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

K. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

70. CARICOM is an integral part of the planning and implementation of the UNESCO Focus on the Caribbean process of consultation and is involved in all the subprojects.

71. The Education for All initiative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is linked to the CARICOM Human Resources Development Strategy. As such, the CARICOM secretariat was represented on the Technical Committee for the Education for All assessment. The action plan arising from the assessment was devised by CARICOM ministers of education and other stakeholders participating in the Education For All Regional Workshop in Santo Domingo, in February 2000. UNESCO has been advised by the CARICOM secretariat that the action plan will be tabled for ratification at the next Heads of Government meeting of CARICOM.

72. UNESCO funded a CARICOM study on cultural policy in CARICOM member States. As a result, CARICOM produced a model regional cultural policy document which was made available to all member States and is currently used in the rewriting, updating or establishment of national cultural policies.

73. The Caribbean Festival of Arts (CARIFESTA) has received continuous UNESCO support over the years. A UNESCO grant financed a consultant in the preparatory stages of CARIFESTA VII, which is scheduled for August 2000 in Saint Kitts and Nevis. UNESCO grants are also provided to the CARICOM member States hosting the festival.

74. UNESCO funded the Subregional Consultation on Higher Education, hosted by CARICOM and mounted by the University of the West Indies in 1998 and participated in a conference on Distance Education hosted by the University of Guyana in 1999. UNESCO has provided a small grant for organizing a second subregional conference on distance education to be hosted by the University of the West Indies in conjunction with CARICOM in Jamaica in July 2000.

The UNESCO representative in Kingston is functioning as adviser to the conference manager and the Kingston office is providing infrastructural support.

75. UNESCO in Santiago funded a course in Spanish as a second language for teachers in the CARICOM region. The CARICOM secretariat is coordinating the pre-course process.

L. International Civil Aviation Organization

76. At the request of CARICOM, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) prepared a document entitled "Discussion paper on management aspects of air navigation services charges in the eastern Caribbean", which was presented to the CARICOM Directors General of Civil Aviation meeting in Trinidad and Tobago in March 2000. The study provided passenger and aircraft movement forecasts to 2003, gave an overview of price systems and charges levied in the Caribbean, Central and South American States, and described ICAO cost-recovery policy, charges collection and related international cooperation.

77. In the field of airport and route facility management, ICAO held a seminar on privatization of airports for States in the Caribbean and in North, Central and South America, in Guatemala City in December 1999. A cargo security workshop was conducted at the ICAO Regional Aviation Security Training Centre in Port-of-Spain in November 1999, and was attended by 13 participants from seven States in the region.

78. ICAO continues to maintain contact with the CARICOM secretariat regarding any further ratification of the Caribbean Community Air Services Agreement, a regional arrangement which was negotiated in 1996 and entered into force on 8 December 1998.

M. World Bank

79. The World Bank and CARICOM cooperate principally by providing a framework for economic development and integration in the Caribbean. The main forum for this cooperation is the Caribbean Group for Cooperation in Economic Development (CGCED), a consultative group chaired by the World Bank, which includes the English-speaking countries of the Caribbean, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Suriname. CARICOM is a member of the Steering Committee, the coordinating body of the CGCED, which sets its agenda and oversees its work programme. CARICOM and the University of the West Indies are the only two Caribbean-wide institutions in the Steering Committee. The World Bank and CARICOM also cooperate in some sectoral areas (e.g., human development and sustainable natural resources development).

N. Universal Postal Union

80. Contacts between the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and CARICOM have always been important and have intensified since the creation in 1995 of the position of Regional UPU Adviser for the Caribbean. Several coordination meetings have been held between the Adviser and regional postal authorities. This coordination has led to the establishment of the Caribbean Postal Union.

O. International Maritime Organization

81. During the period from 1997 to 1999, there has been excellent cooperation and collaboration between the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and CARICOM, made possible through the appointment, by CARICOM/UNDP, of a Regional Maritime Safety Adviser.

82. Throughout the period under review, IMO developed and executed all its technical assistance activities in the Caribbean in the closest possible coordination with the adviser. This resulted in programmes that were tailor-made to the realities and maritime development objectives of the region, and at the same time that addressed the technical priorities of IMO as the United Nations agency responsible for establishing global standards relating to maritime safety and marine environment protection.

83. The first and second general meetings between representatives of the United Nations system and CARICOM identified a number of items relating to maritime transport to be implemented jointly by CARICOM, IMO and UNDP. Significant progress has been registered with respect to the follow-up activities, as summarized below.

84. IMO contributed to a joint UNDP/CARICOM project (September 1997-December 1999) to support the upgrading of administrative and legal regimes for effective implementation of the Caribbean Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control. IMO provided technical backstopping and financial support for activities in the amount of some US$ 1.4 million.

85. A new project to strengthen effective maritime administration in the Caribbean will be active during the period from April 2000 to March 2001, with IMO as the executing agent and with CARICOM as the principal beneficiary. The project and supporting IMO activities have direct linkages to the objectives of General Assembly resolution 54/225 of 22 December 1999, Agenda 21 and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, since they will assist the beneficiaries in adopting a more integrated approach to the effective administration of the region's maritime sector.

P. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

86. During the second general meeting between the United Nations system and CARICOM, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) addressed the need for a sound industrial classification system as a prerequisite for the preparation of comparable trade statistics. UNIDO suggested that CARICOM consider carrying out an industrial census to allow a better analysis of the status and potential of industrial development in the region.

87. The UNIDO recommendations also address possible cooperation on the Caribbean Food Safety Initiative and on enhancing internationally competitive production and trade in CARICOM member States. With regard to the five-year review of the Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the UNIDO representative described UNIDO potential in promoting the mobilization of technical, financial and technological assistance to encourage energy efficiency in small island developing States and to accelerate the utilization of environmentally sound renewable energy sources. The UNIDO representative and the Executive Director of the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute, a CARICOM associated institution, exchanged relevant information at the meeting in Nassau and agreed to continue identifying areas of mutual interest and priority. CARICOM has reiterated its interest in signing an agreement with UNIDO, for which the relevant consultations are under way.

Annex

Joint statement of the second general meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and the Caribbean Community and its associate institutions held in Nassau on 27 and 28 March 2000

1. The second general meeting between the United Nations Secretariat and its specialized agencies and the Caribbean Community secretariat and its associate institutions concluded in Nassau on 28 March 2000. The CARICOM delegation was led by Carla Barnett, Deputy Secretary-General. The United Nations system delegation was led by Patrizio Civili, Assistant Secretary-General, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

2. The meeting expressed satisfaction with the progress made in the implementation of areas agreed in the first meeting, which had been held at United Nations Headquarters in May 1997, and noted in particular the progress made in the following areas of collaboration:

(a) Completion of the framework for the creation of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy;

(b) Capacity-building in the preservation, protection and promotion of intellectual property rights;

(c) Social policy formulation especially in the areas of youth development, the advancement of women, health services and the protection and promotion of the rights of the child;

(d) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

(e) Implementation of the Plan of Action for Drug Control Coordination and Cooperation;

(f) Support for strengthening democracy and governance in the region;

(g) Support for the region's preparation for the five-year review of international conferences and summits.

3. The ongoing collaboration between the United Nations and its agencies and CARICOM was noted and new areas of cooperation identified.

4. The meeting agreed that the future programme of work should be structured within the following framework:

(a) Implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy;

(b) Positioning of CARICOM in the global economy, particularly support for international policy formation, capacity building and training; assistance in developing policies on Internet and e-commerce;

(c) Human and social development, including human resources development, poverty alleviation, food security, the Plan of Action for Drug Control Coordination and Cooperation, a regional strategic plan on human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), and the strengthening of governance and security in the region;

(d) Follow-up to the Barbados Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States;

(e) Follow-up to General Assembly resolution 54/225 on promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development;

(f) Development of a cooperation programme in the field of public information between CARICOM and the United Nations system.

5. The meeting agreed to pursue the following modalities for deepening collaboration:

(a) Ongoing interaction between CARICOM and the regional offices of the United Nations system;

(b) An interim meeting in 2001 in one of the Caribbean offices of the United Nations system;

(c) Instituting the general meeting of the two secretariats on a biennial basis;

(d) Establishing of a website to assist in monitoring the implementation of the programme of cooperation.

6. The meeting agreed that the report of the meeting would be finalized and published shortly.